

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE REQUESTED FILING OF RULE 1.53(B)  
CONTINUATION PATENT APPLICATION BASED ON  
THE FOLLOWING PENDING PRIOR PATENT APPLICATION:

In re Application of: Frederic P. Field et al.  
Serial No.: 10/039,601  
Filing Date: 10/19/2001  
Title: SURGICAL SUTURING INSTRUMENT AND METHOD  
OF USE  
Group Art Unit: 3731  
Examiner: Gary Jackson  
Attorney's Docket No.: ONUX-17

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

At page 1, lines 4-16, please replace the current paragraph with the following new paragraph:

-- This is a continuation of pending prior U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/039,601, filed 10/19/2001 by Frederic P. Field et al. for SURGICAL SUTURING INSTRUMENT AND METHOD OF USE, which is in turn a continuation-in-part of pending prior U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/818,300, filed 03/27/01 by Gregory E. Sancoff et al. for SURGICAL SUTURING INSTRUMENT AND METHOD OF USE (Attorney's Docket No. ONUX-15), which patent application in turn claims benefit of (1) prior U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/368,273, filed 08/03/99 by Gregory E. Sancoff et al. for SURGICAL SUTURING INSTRUMENT AND METHOD OF USE (Attorney's Docket No. ONUX-4), and (2) prior U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/192,487, filed 3/27/00 by

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